

WI-106  
Perry-Cooper House  
Salisbury  
Private

1897-98

The only nineteenth-century dwelling to survive in Salisbury with the distinctive Second Empire style mansard roof is the Perry-Cooper house, located on the corner of East William and Gay streets in the Newtown Historic District. The house has had a complex architectural past that began during the late 1870s or early 1880s with the construction of a two-story, three-bay frame house during the ownership of Mary E. Williams Smith or Jeremiah J. Morris and his wife Annie T. Morris, in whose name the passed during the early 1880s.

Jeremiah J. Morris and his family, however, owned an elaborate residence on Division Street and probably rented the William Street house to a tenant. In January 1897, the house and the corner lot were acquired by Amelia P. Waller, who in turned deeded the property in the same year to her daughter, Agnes and son-in-law, Thomas Perry, the editor of the *Salisbury Advertiser*. In the July 10, 1897 issue of the paper Thomas Perry publicized his personal building plans, on the front page of the newspaper below the masthead. The paper stated:

*Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Waller the property corner of William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40 x 18 ft. two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and jointed to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front building will have porch full length of the house and the back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.*

When new, with its distinctive mansard roof, the Thomas Perry house stood out in Newtown in contrast to the numerous Queen Anne dwellings erected by many of the city's successful businessmen. A center projecting bay, capped by a tall section of mansard roof, is flanked by shorter sections. Also distinctive are the series of dormers which define the roof, and have pediment tops. Distinguishing the house as well is an unusual pierced design executed in the form of a stylized swag carved in the fascia boards of the main cornice and all of the front

window lintels. The interior of the center hall plan dwelling was executed on high level with an elaborate carved oak staircase that ascends three floors.

Although born in Sussex County, Delaware in 1854, Thomas Perry grew up in Wicomico County after his parents relocated to a farm west of Salisbury. He graduated from Washington College in 1876 and taught school in various locations before his appointment as school examiner in Wicomico County in 1880. Thomas Perry purchased the *Salisbury Advertiser* in 1884, and through diligent work elevated the newspaper to the largest weekly issue on the peninsula. After the 1886 fire he was one of several business leaders to form the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association. In 1899 he sold the newspaper and entered into the lumber business. For a period during the early twentieth century he served as the Wicomico County treasurer. In the 1907 city directory, Thomas Perry is listed with his wife Agnes, and three children, Thomas Jr., Louise, and William, at the William Street address.

Thomas Perry died in 1914, and his wife remained in residence through the balance of her life. In August 1914 the rear service wing of the house was detached and repositioned a short distance south as a separate dwelling. At Agnes Perry's death in 1938 the property passed to Louise W. Cooper, in whose hands the house and lot remained until 1955 when she transferred ownership to Ralph L. and Elizabeth A. Lang. Initial restoration of the house took place during the 1970s and 1980s. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Restoration and renovation of the house have continued by the present owner, who acquired the house in 1995.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Perry-Cooper House

other Thomas Perry House

### 2. Location

street and number 200 East William Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David T. Scheid

street and number 200 East William Street telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1449 folio 611

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 791 tax ID number 5-007674

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Current Function

☐ agriculture  
☐ commerce/trade  
☐ defense  
☒ domestic  
☐ education  
☐ funerary  
☐ government  
☐ health care  
☐ industry  
☐ landscape  
☐ recreation/culture  
☐ religion  
☐ social  
☐ transportation  
☐ work in progress  
☐ unknown  
☐ vacant/not in use  
☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	_____ building s
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structur s
_____	_____ objects
1	_____ Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-106

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Commonly known as the Perry-Cooper house, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall Second Empire frame dwelling is located at 200 East William Street at its intersection with Gay Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces north.

Dated in 1897-98, the two-and-a-half story center hall plan house is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The walls rise to a wood shingled Mansard roof. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story wing. In 1914 a portion of the rear wing, the original house on the lot, was moved directly south and converted into a separate dwelling.

The north (main) façade is a symmetrical three-bay façade with a projecting center pavilion that contains a double door entrance. The partially glazed and paneled doors are topped by a single-pane transom of etched glass, and the doorway is flanked by rounded windows to each side. The entrance bay is flanked by large single-pane sash windows which survive with wide louvered shutters. A wide lintel capped with a crown molding is also enhanced with a stylized swag pattern pierced into the lintel. The first floor openings are sheltered by an elaborate flat-roofed porch with a projecting center bay with a round form. The porch roof is supported by turned posts, and an unusual bracket incised with a radiating sunburst design is combined with the stylized swag pattern pierced into the fascia. A turned baluster railing has been restored to the front porch. The second story has a projecting center bay which is defined by a Palladian window. The center panel of the Palladian window has an arched window with colored glass perimeter panes. A crown molding enhances the top of the three-part window, and the stylized swag pattern decorates the lintel above the single-pane sash windows to each side. The flanking bays are marked by paired single-pane sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The lintel to each window opening is enhanced with the stylized swag decoration. The base of the roof is trimmed with a bold bracketed cornice, and the fascia is embellished with the stylized carving as well. The center bay is crowned with a taller section of Mansard roof than the adjacent bays. A single dormer with a broken pediment arch embellished with the stylized swag decoration marks the center bay, whereas double width dormers with triangular pediments and the stylized swag decoration are located to each side. The top of the Mansard roof features a second cornice with a crown molding and small brackets.

The east and west sides of the main block are largely alike with pairs of single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second stories. The lintels of each window opening are carved with the stylized pierced work swags. The bracketed cornice is enhanced with the swag carving as well. Centered on each side of the mansard roof is a gable roofed dormer with a pediment front.

The south (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by a two-story service wing and a two-story single bay tower topped by a mansard roof as well.

The interior is fitted with finely executed late nineteenth-century woodwork. One of the main focal points is a three-story carved oak staircase. An elaborate Victorian mantel in the dining room was purchased by a previous owner and installed in the house.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-106

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1897-98

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The only nineteenth-century structure to survive in Salisbury with the distinctive mansard roof is the Perry-Cooper house on the corner of East William and Gay streets in the Newtown Historic District. The house has had a complex architectural past that began during the late 1870s or early 1880s with the construction of a two-story, three-bay frame house during the ownership of Mary E. Williams Smith or Jeremiah J. Morris and his wife Annie T. Morris, in whose name the property passed during the early 1880s.<sup>1</sup>

Jeremiah J. Morris and his family, however, owned a principal residence on Division Street and probably rented the William Street house to a tenant.<sup>2</sup> In January 1897, the house and corner lot were acquired by Amelia P. Waller, who in turned deeded the property to her daughter Agnes and son-in-law Thomas Perry, the editor of the *Salisbury Advertiser*. In the July 10, 1897 issue of the paper Thomas Perry publicized his personal building plans in an unusual place, on the front page below the masthead. The paper stated:

*Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Waller the property corner of William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller, and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40 x 18 ft. two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and jointed to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front building will have porch full length of the house and the back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.<sup>3</sup>*

When new, with its distinctive mansard roof, the Thomas Perry house stood out in Newtown in contrast to the numerous Queen Anne dwellings erected by many of the city's successful businessmen. A center projecting bay, capped by a tall section of mansard roof, is flanked by shorter sections. Also unusual are the dormers that pierce the mansard roof, which have pediment tops. Distinguishing the house as well is an unusual pierced design executed in the form of a stylized swag carved in the fascia boards of the main cornice and all

<sup>1</sup> There is no land transfer for this transaction. The corner lot was involved in a chancery case following the death of Mary E. Williams Smith, Equity Case No. 618, 3/7/1887.

<sup>2</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, 22 March 1890. "Mr. J. J. Morris has succeeded in adjusting the insurance policies on his residence lately burned. It footed up about \$8000 including amount on furniture. There was \$9,000 on the building, but the salvage claimed, and the depreciation of material and labor since 1883 reduced the value to \$7,000. The original cost of the building was \$10,000."

<sup>3</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, 10 July 1897.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

Name            Perry-Cooper House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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the lintels of the front window opening. The interior of the center hall plan dwelling was executed on a high level with an elaborate staircase that rises three floors.

Although born in Sussex County, Delaware in 1854, Thomas Perry grew up in Wicomico County after his parents relocated to a farm west of Salisbury. He graduated from Washington College in 1876 and taught school in several locations before his appointment as school examiner in Wicomico County in 1880. Thomas Perry purchased the *Salisbury Advertiser* in 1884, and through diligent work elevated the newspaper to the largest weekly issue on the peninsula. After the 1886 fire he was associated with the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association. In 1899 he sold the newspaper and entered into the lumber business.<sup>4</sup> For a period during the early twentieth century he served as the county treasurer. In the 1907 city directory, Thomas Perry is listed with his wife, Agnes, and three children, Thomas, Jr., Louise, and William, at their William Street address.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Perry died in 1914. His wife remained in the William Street residence through the balance of her life. In August of 1914 the rear service wing was detached and repositioned a short distance south as a separate residence. At Agnes Perry's death in 1938, the property passed to her daughter, Louise W. Cooper, in whose hands the house and lot remained until 1955. She transferred ownership to Ralph L. and Elizabeth A. Lang.<sup>6</sup> Initial restoration of the house took place during the 1970s and 1980s with continuing work accomplished by the present owner, who acquired the property in 1995.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Mendel L. Heilig, National Register nomination for the Perry-Cooper House, May 1976.

<sup>5</sup> The 1907 Salisbury City Directory, transcribed and published by Neill Keddie, 1998, p. 41.

<sup>6</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 386/214, 9 June 1955.

<sup>7</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 1449/611, 11 August 1995.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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Perry-Cooper House  
200 East William Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Map 107, Parcel 791

1449/611 Thomas E. Robinson  
to

8/11/1995 David T. Scheid

MSB 1275/221 Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene S. Robinson  
to

9/25/1991 Thomas E. Robinson

AJS 929/87 Carlene S. Robinson, formerly Carlene S. Adkins  
to

10/1/1979 Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene S. Robinson

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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AJS 897/315 Linus M. Ellis, III and Ruth H. Ellis

to

5/3/1978 Carlene S. Adkins

AJS 825/66 Ralph L. Lang

to

7/18/1974 Linnus M. Ellis, III  
Ruth H. Ellis

JWTS 386/214 Louise W. Cooper, widow

to

6/9/1955 Ralph L. Lang  
Elizabeth A. Lang  
(the said Agnes D. Perry departed this life, will JAH 1/233, under the  
terms and provisions of which the above described lot of ground was  
devised unto the within named grantor, to daughter Louise W. Cooper,  
will written 9/6/1935, proved 6/8/1938)

JTT 21/99 Amelia P. Waller, widow

to

8/23/1897 Agnes D. Perry



**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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JTT 19/106

Jeremiah J. Morris  
Annie T. Morris

to

1/20/1897

Amelia P. Waller

JTT 9/313

Samuel A. Graham, trustee

to

3/14/1887

Annie T. Morris  
Decree of Circuit Court, 3/7/1887, Annie T. Morris vs. Levin T. H. Irving  
and Milton A. Parsons, Executors of Benjamin Parsons, dec'd  
No. 618 in Equity  
Whereas the said Thomas M. Slemons heretofore bought the hereinafter  
described property of the said Jeremiah J. Morris and Annie T. Morris, but  
has never received any deed therefore. And whereas the said Thomas M.  
Slemons has since sold same to said Amelia P. Waller, who has fully paid  
the purchase money therefor.

SPT 1/245

Executors of Benjamin Parsons

11/1/1874

Plat of Town Lots, Estate of Benjamin Parsons, 1873

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

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*Salisbury Advertiser*, June 26, 1897

Thos. Perry has sold his farm of 80 acres located on the shell road to Mr. Daniel J. Ward who will erect upon it a residence and occupy it after this year.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, July 10, 1897

Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Walker the property corner of William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller, and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40 x 18 ft two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and jointed to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front will have porch full length of the house and back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-106

Heilig, Mendel L., *National Register nomination for the Perry-Cooper House*, May 1976.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, various issues, Microfilm collection at the Wicomico County Free Library.

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 8,239 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 8,239 square feet  
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	7/19/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# SALISBURY ADVISOR

Salisbury, Md., Saturday, July 10, 1897.

## Building Notes.

Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Waller the property corner William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller, and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40x18 ft two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and joined to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front building will have porch full length of the house and the back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.

F. A. Grier Esq. broke ground this week for his new residence to be erected on the lot lately purchased of Mrs. Ellen Toadvine, Corner of Division and Isabella streets. The plan, we understand, is for a house somewhat similar to Mr. J. D. Price's, corner of Division and West Chestnut streets. Mr. Grier, we understand, expects to spend between three and four thousand dollars.

## An Arm Lost.

Theodore Stewart, a valued employee at Jackson Brothers' No. 1 Mill, had the horrible experience of having

## PASSED THE SENATE.

Final Passage of the Tariff Bill and the Appointment of Conference Committee.

Washington, July 7.—By the decisive vote of 88 to 28 the Tariff bill was passed in the Senate shortly before 5 o'clock today. The culmination of the long and arduous struggle had excited the keenest interest, and the floor and galleries of the Senate chamber were crowded by those anxious to witness the closing scene.

Speaker Reed, Chairman Dingley and many of the members of the House of Representatives were in the rear area, while every seat in the galleries, save those reserved for foreign representatives, was occupied.

The main interest centred in the final vote, and aside from this there was little of a dramatic character in the debate. The early part of the day was spent on amendments of comparatively minor importance, the debate branching into financial and anti-trust channels.

By 4 o'clock the Senators began manifesting their impatience by call for "Vote," "Vote," and soon thereafter the last amendment was disposed of and the final vote began. There were many interruptions as pairs were arranged, and then at 4.55 o'clock, the



## PURITY IN

means health to you is reason in all there is no reason poor drugs. At Leonard's you can best, the absolutely they cost you no likely less, than the Can't we be of service We know we can be you and save you

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MARYLAND.

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AS BUILDING,

KEET.

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Drug Store.

NA GIERING

STERED PHYSICIAN,

ive years' experience

in Diseases of Women

and Seminars of high

solite privacy and

Regulative Pills \$2.00

Advice by mail.

REET, BALTIMORE, MD.







W1-106

Perry Cooper House

Savannah, Georgia Co., Ga.

NORTH ELEVATION

8/01, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHER

WEL (and) House in Town

1 or 2





W1-106

Perry - Cooper House

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., Md.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

8/01, Paul Touart, Pittsfield, Mass.

NEL. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Perry-Cooper House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

200 East William Street

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE  
24

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

Wicomico

CODE  
045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: Music Studio

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. ~~Lewis M. Ellis, III~~

*Thomas E. Robinson (new owner)  
wife, Carlene*

STREET & NUMBER

200 East William Street

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Division Street

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland 21801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

WI-106

## CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Perry-Cooper House is located on the southeast corner of East William and Gay Streets, Salisbury, Maryland, facing East William Street.

Built in the late 19th century, it has three full stories topped with a French mansard roof. The facade is three bays wide with a central tower, including a bowed entrance on the first floor, a nine-foot-high Palladian window on the second and a window with broken pediment on the third. On either side of the tower is a large, single window on the first floor and double windows on the second and third floors. There is an original porch spanning the facade. Bowed in the center to match the entrance, it has stairways on either side of the bow descending to a bowed, brick walk. It has turned pillars with sawn brackets, and was originally surmounted with iron cresting, a section of which has been found under the house. The original porch rail was removed circa 1970 (portions of this have also been found under the house). Original stenciling is found above all windows on the main part of the house, on a barge board below the cornice and on the entablature of the porch.

The roof, enclosing the third floor, has two slopes and dormer windows in the manner characteristic of the French mansard. The upper slope of the roof is covered with sheet metal. The lower, visible slope presently has asphalt shingles which will be replaced with wood shakes in the restoration of the building.

The house is of frame with a clapboard covering. The latter is presently hidden under asphalt shingling which will be removed in the restoration to reveal the clapboard. The siding was originally painted "lead white" (light grey) with cream trim. The cornice is boxed and decorated with brackets. A smaller dentil cornice is located at the top of the first slope of the roof.

Originally "T"-shaped, the rear wing of the house was removed circa 1915 and replaced with a smaller wing and two porches (both since enclosed).

On the interior, the central bay contains an open stairwell, rises thirty feet to the third floor ceiling. The stairs and balustrade are of oak. There are oak moldings in the halls on all three floors and in the first floor front rooms. Moldings in the remainder of the house are pine and were painted light grey. Both first floor rooms have walnut mantels. These are original, although the brickwork in the fireplaces is not. The one in the west room is a mantel shelf topped with a string of six square, raised panels. The one in the east room is a very plain mantel supported by two simple columns.

The flooring throughout the house is tongue and groove pine. A second oak floor was laid in the first floor hall and east front room.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Perry-Cooper House  
Wicomico County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

Restoration, begun in 1975, is in progress and will return the exterior and interior of the house to as near its original state as possible. This includes reproduction of the porch balustrade; removal of asbestos shingling and restoration of "lead white" clapboard with light cream trim; restoration of lattice between brick piers; replacement of iron cresting on porch roof; removal of paint from oak woodwork and stairway, restoring original varnish finish; removal of wallpaper and paint from walls, replacing with paper matching the original (where possible); removal of rubber tile and underlayment, refinishing of pine and oak flooring; restoration of fireplaces.

## SIGNIFICANCE

WI-106

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Perry-Cooper House has the only Victorian French mansard roof remaining in the City of Salisbury. It also retains in a large measure the architectural details, including a delicate stenciled design, of its exterior.

The house was the residence of one of Salisbury's well-known civic leaders, Thomas Perry. An educator, newspaper publisher and editor, financier, industrialist and official of county government, his family occupied the house from 1897 until 1950.

Thomas Perry was born in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1854. His parents moved to a farm in western Wicomico County the following year. He graduated from Washington College, Chestertown, in 1876, and taught school in Salisbury, Maryland, and Seaford, Delaware, and for a year in Little Falls, Minnesota. He was appointed school examiner for Wicomico County (Superintendent of Schools) on May 5, 1880 and remained in the post until 1892.

Perry purchased The Advertiser in 1884 and built it into the largest weekly newspaper on the Delmarva Peninsula.

After the 1886 fire which leveled most of Salisbury, Perry, together with several local businessmen, founded the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association to provide aid for individuals to rebuild property destroyed by the fire. In 1899 he sold The Advertiser and went into the lumber business.

In 1907 Perry was elected County Treasurer which combined with it the offices of collector of taxes and clerk to the County Commissioners, three offices in one. He died in 1914.

The land history of the Perry-Cooper house is rather confusing. Several of the transactions involved were apparently never legally recorded in the office of land records. In 1879 Mary E. Williams bought two lots from the estate of Benjamin Parsons at a sheriff's sale. (Chancery Court SPT 1/65, also Chancery Court cases 384 and 618). Mary (Williams) Smith died in 1882; sometime before this she sold the property to Annie T. Morris although no deed was recorded. In 1887 a deed was recorded from Samuel A. Graham, Trustee, to Annie T. Morris by decree of the Circuit Court. Some time in the next ten years. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Slemons obtained the land; no deed was recorded.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WI-106

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

Perry-Cooper House  
Wicomico County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

It was some time during all these unrecorded transactions that the house was built. There is apparently no record of who the builder was.

In 1897 Amelia P. Waller deeded the lot to her daughter Agnes D. Perry, wife of Thomas Perry (Deed JTT 21/99). Their daughter, Louise Cooper, came into possession of the tract by her mother's will (Will JAH 1/233) in 1938.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WI-106

The Advertiser (Salisbury, Maryland). November 9, 1907, p. 1.

Bailey, James P. "Financial Institutions" in What's Past is Prologue: The Wicomico County Centennial: 1867-1967. Salisbury, Maryland: Wicomico County Centennial, Inc., 1967.

see continuation sheet #3

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1911 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mendel L. Heilig, Archivist and Mr. Linus M. Ellis, III

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May 20, 1976

STREET &amp; NUMBER

117 Elizabeth Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland 21801

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The Perry-Cooper House - Wicomico County  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

#9. REFERENCES Continued

Ellis, Linus M. III. "Chain of Title - 200 East William Street, Salisbury, Maryland."

Lankford, Joanna. "County Superintendents" (file at the office of the Wicomico County Board of Education compiled from the minutes of the Board of Education).

Truit, Charles J. Historic Salisbury Maryland. Garden City, New York: Country Life Press, 1932.

Walker, Albert E., editor and compiler. The Wicomico News: Historical and Industrial Edition: Portraying the Present Status and Future Possibilities of Salisbury Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Brewington Brothers Company, 1908.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WI-106

Perry Cooper House

Perry Cooper House

(MELKON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 3 M  
VIENNA 15 M

447800m E

4247000m N

ROYAL OAK 9.4 MI  
CATCHERMAN 5 MI



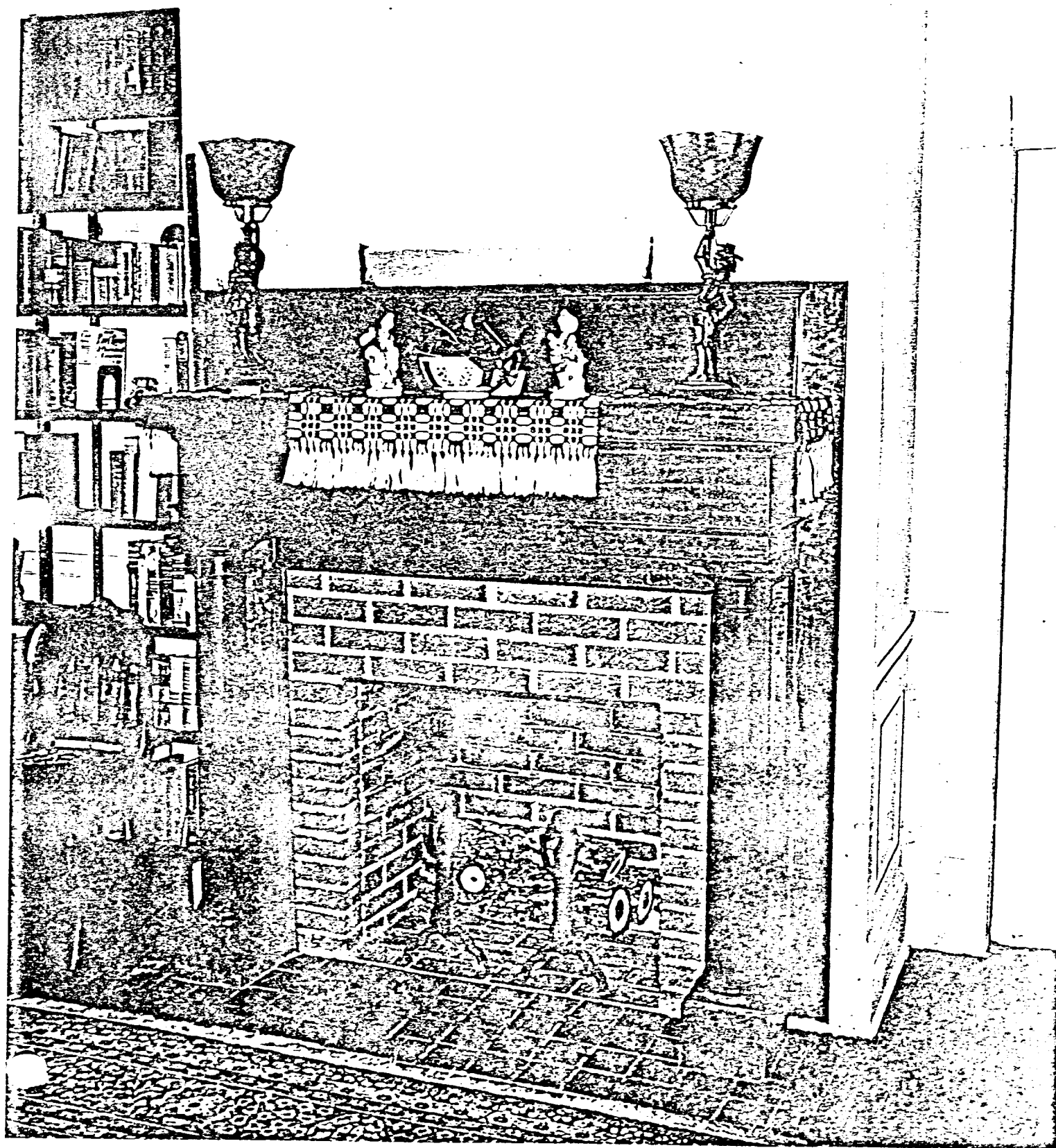
Salisbury, Md.

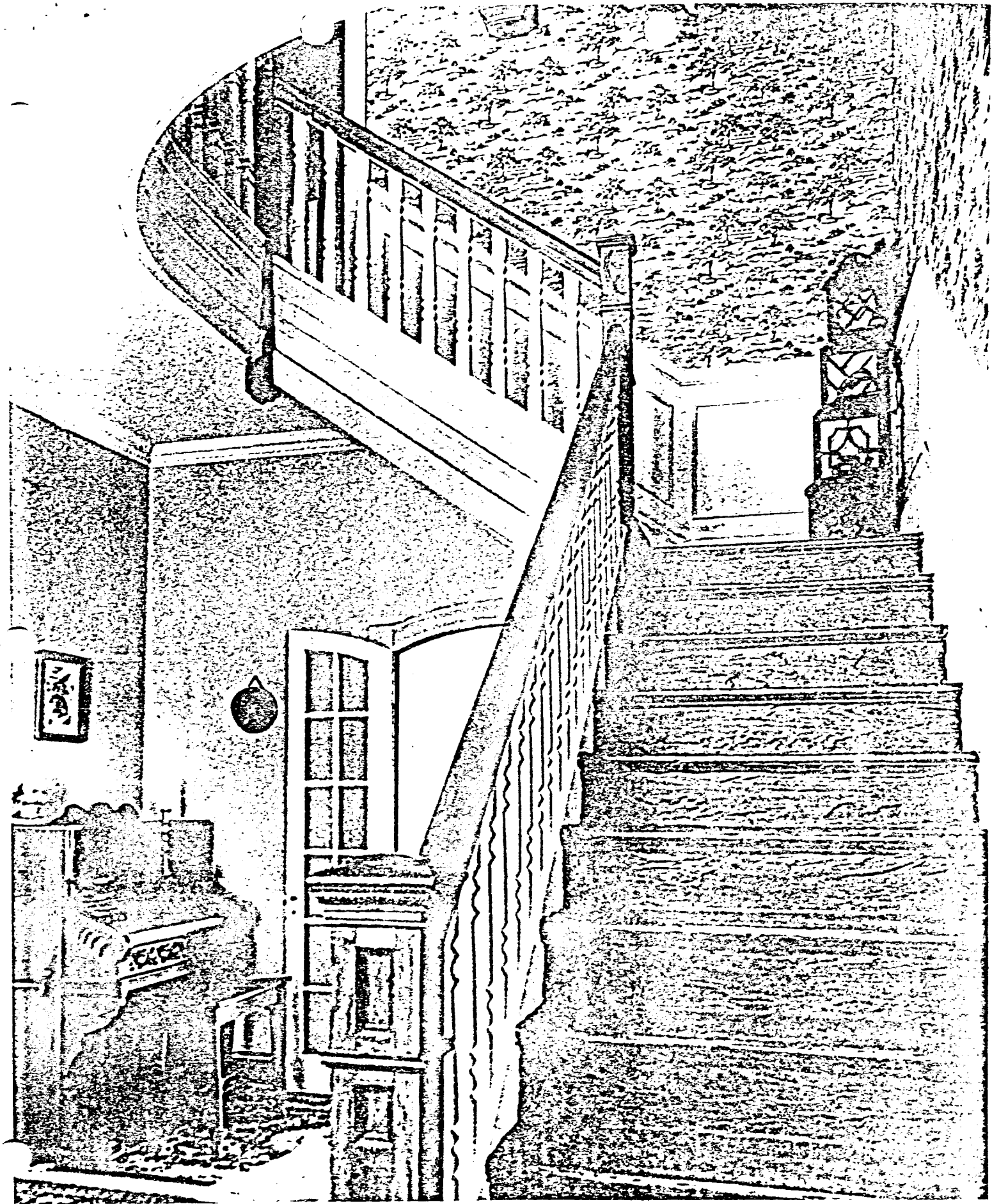
SHAD POINT 0.5 MI.

PRINCESS ANNE 11 MI.  
ALLEN 4.5 MI

Fruitland

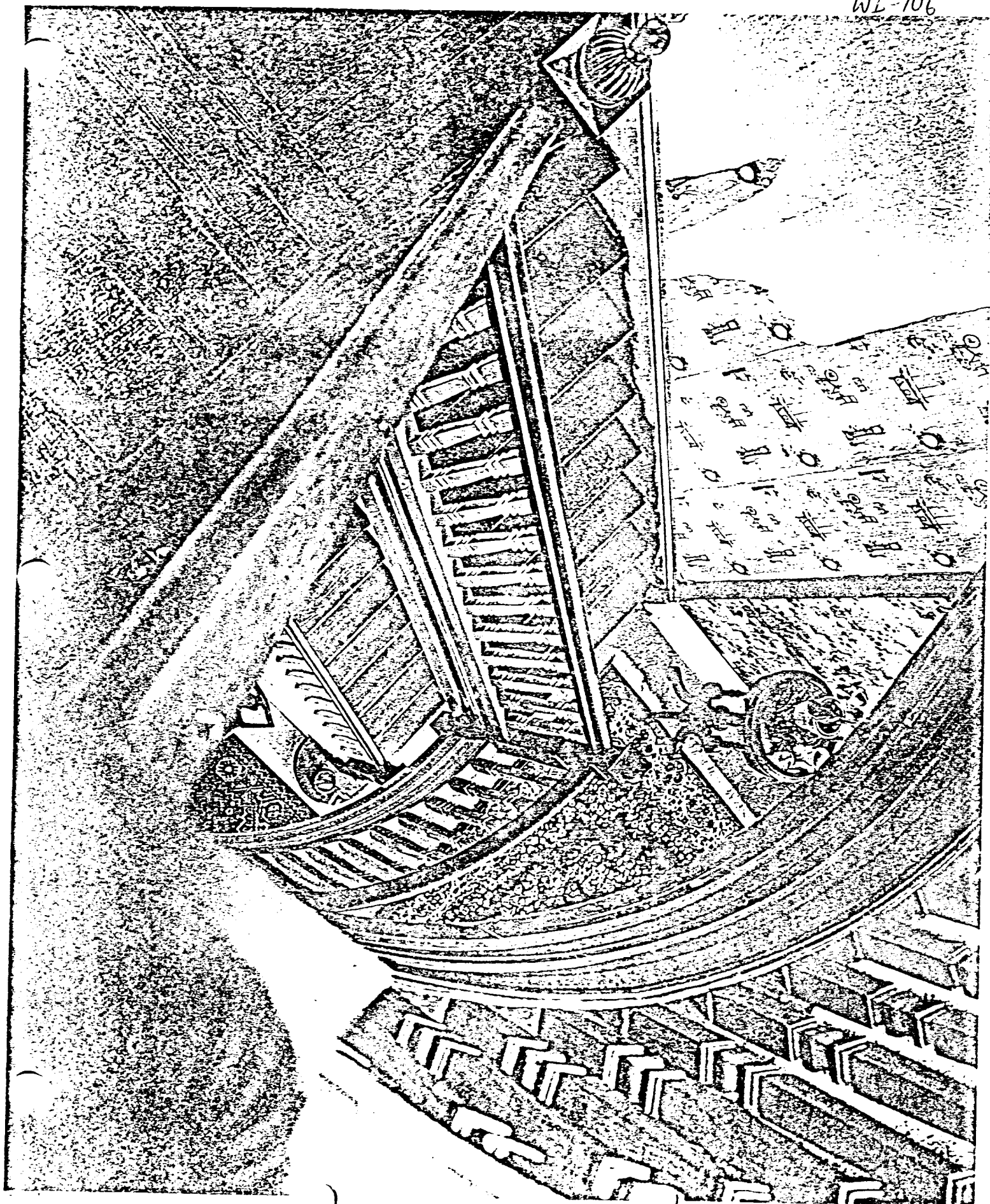






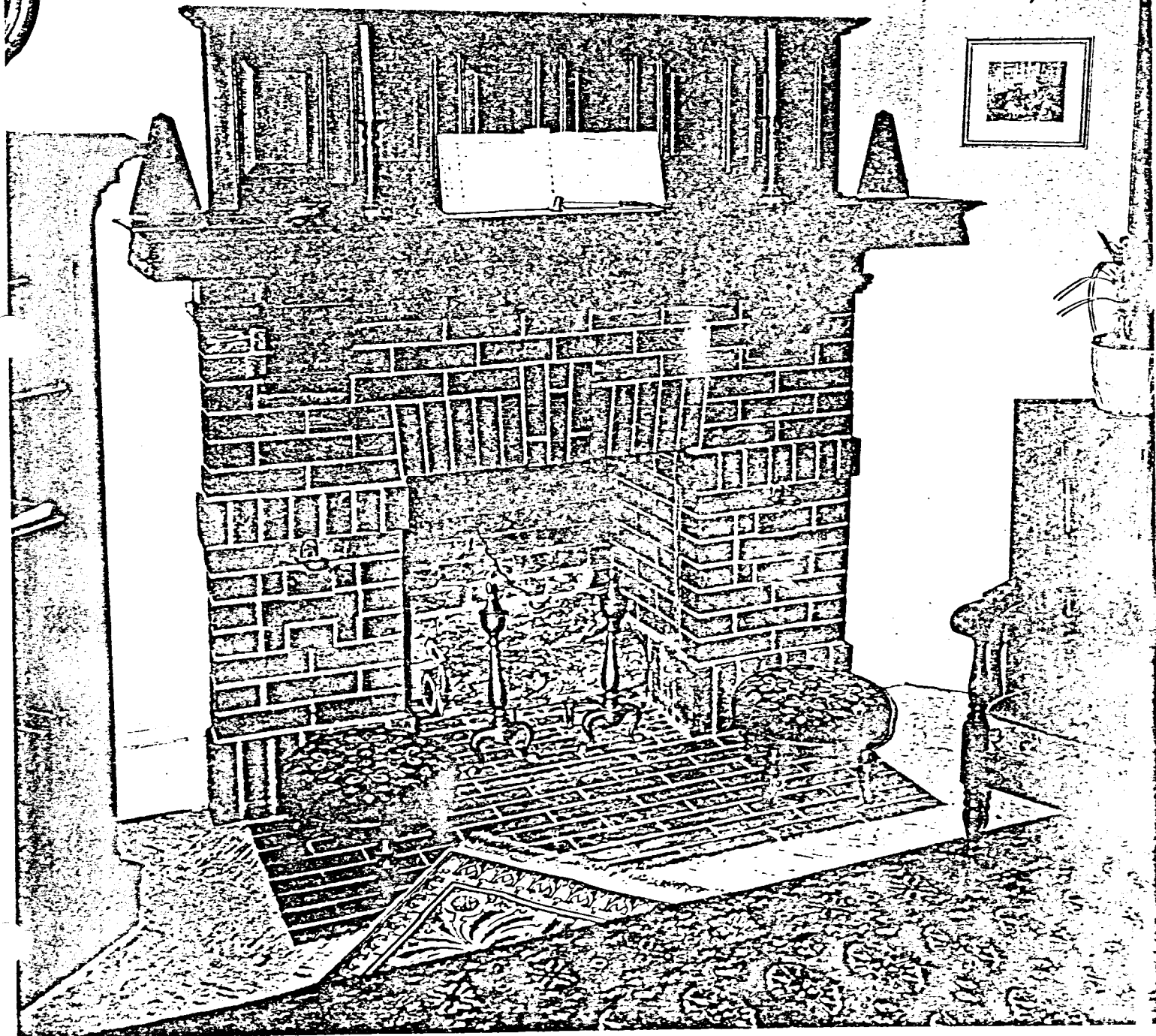
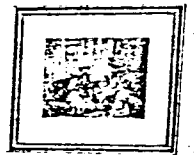
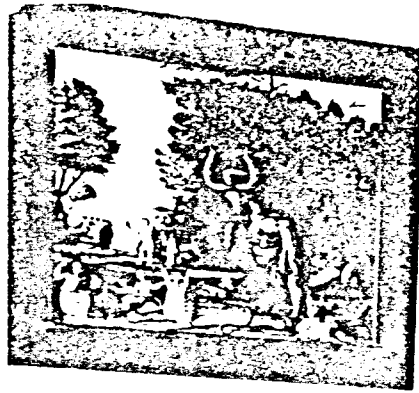
WI-106





WI-106









200 E. William St.  
Perry Cooper House  
Salisbury

WI-106



WT-106

Taken by Tom Derrich  
during the Spring of '28

Perry-Cooper House  
200 E. William St  
Salisbury, Md